

tions and Privileges, (2) Committee of Accounts, (3) Committee of Grievances and Courts of Justice (4) Committee to enquire into the state and condition of Arms and Ammunition, (5) Committee to inspect the accounts and proceedings of the commissioners or trustees for emitting bills of credit (Loan Office), (6) Committee to inspect the several Public Offices. Special committees were appointed as the occasion required.

In his speech to the two houses with which Sharpe opened the session, he declared that he had called the Assembly together in obedience to the King's command as expressed through the Earl of Egremont, one of the Principal Secretaries of State, and as the result of a letter received from General Amherst, the Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's forces in America, in order that the Assembly might, in compliance with the King's orders, raise a sufficient number of Maryland troops for defense, so that His Majesty's regular troops might be freed for use on an important expedition. Sharpe in pursuance of the promises contained in these letters declared that the King would supply the Provincial troops with arms, tents, and provisions, but that the Province would be expected to pay and clothe the men, although the Earl of Egremont had promised that Parliament would be asked to reimburse the Province for these expenditures. Egremont's letter, dated December 12, 1761, was a circular letter, directed to the governors of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. After referring to the chicane of the court of Versailles and the dangers to the Province from the French, Egremont said that it was the King's pleasure that there be raised with dispatch as large a body of men as possible, these to be levied under the conditions which Sharpe had outlined in his opening speech. Egremont also promised that the Provincial officers in the new forces would continue to have the same rank as that to which they had been commissioned by the Governor, who was to select them from among "such Gentlemen in your Province as you shall judge, from their Weight and Credit with the People and their Zeal for the Public Service", were most suitable, a reiteration of the same promise made in the King's Warrant of December 30, 1747, when Provincial troops were then being raised. The minister also admonished "that His Majesty expects that your Province will not Obstinately persist in refusing to comply with their Duty to the King . . . a Behaviour which cannot fail to incur His Majesty's Displeasure" (pp. 5-7). General Amherst in his letter from New York, dated February 9, 1762, transmitting to the Governor the above circular letter from Egremont, urged the Governor to call together the Assembly at once, so that the King's wishes might be promptly complied with, summarized the contents of the Earl's communication, and added that as soon as he had apportioned the quota which each province would be expected to furnish to complete the regular regiments now serving in America, he would transmit to the Governor a second letter from Egremont of the same date telling him what would be expected of Maryland in order to comply with the King's command, and "the Encouragements which his Majesty is graciously pleased to Empower me to give [to his Maryland subjects] for effecting this most Essential Service" (pp. 7-9).